

Applicants believe that no extension of time is required since this response is being filed before the expiration of the specified three-(3) month period. Applicants, however, conditionally petition for an extension of time to provide for the possibility that the need for such a petition has been inadvertently overlooked. As provided below, please charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105** for any required fee.

REMARKS

Claims 1-47 are pending in the subject application, and are subject to an election of species requirement.

In the above referenced Official Action, the Examiner has indicated a belief that the pending claims are directed to more than one patentably distinct species. More specifically, the Examiner has taken the position that the claims originally filed in the above-identified application are directed to the following species:

Species I – Claims 1-14, 29 and 31-37,
allegedly directed to liquid crystal devices with $n_a < n_b < n_c$.

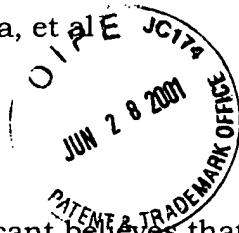
Species II – Claims 15-28, 30 and 38-47,
allegedly directed to a liquid crystal devices with $n_a = n_c > n_b$.

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In response to the above described restriction requirement, the Examiner has required the Applicants under 35 U.S.C. §121 to elect a single disclosed species to which prosecution on the merits will be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. In this regard, **Applicants hereby elect, without traverse and without prejudice to their right to file subsequent divisional applications or the like directed to the non-elected subject matter, Species I presently embodied in Claims 1-14, 29 and 31-37.**

It is respectfully submitted that as so restricted the subject application now is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action, therefore, is respectfully requested in response to this communication

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Applicant believes that additional fees are not required for consideration of the within Response. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or a credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge or credit Deposit Account No. **04-1105** as appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 26, 2001

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